

This legislation is specifically targeted to extremely low and low-income families, meaning those who most need help will receive that assistance and improve upon their current living conditions. The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund also targets funds to the local jurisdictions that have the experience in providing and administering affordable housing, and who work within the community with the actual residents.

While Iowa may not have many "urban" areas in which poverty issues are traditionally highlighted; many rural areas of Iowa have seen good-paying jobs leave our towns at an astonishing rate, devastating our communities. It is estimated there are 305,000 Iowan's living in poverty. Of that 305,000, almost 90,000 are children under the age of 18.

In 1949, The U.S. Housing Act established the admirable goal of "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American Family." The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund is another step this Congress has taken to ensure we adhere to this goal. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 866—H. Res. 643, which commemorated the 9/11 attacks, I was with my constituents in Nevada's Second District. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

TRIBUTE TO ABBEY MEYERS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a selfless and a truly great American. For more than 20 years Abbey Meyers has been the voice of people in this country with rare diseases. She has helped establish national policy that has improved the lives of countless patients. Before Abbey Meyers began this important work, these patients had no advocate in Washington. Today no one is more effective in advocating on their behalf.

The patients for whom Abbey Meyers works have one of more than 1,000 diseases, diseases that are not known to most people. Because the populations are so small, before 1980 drug companies did virtually no research to find cures for rare diseases, even though these diseases are devastating for afflicted patients and their families.

In 1983 Congress enacted the Orphan Drug Act, which provided incentives to drug companies to invest in drugs for rare diseases. Since that time the Food and Drug Administration has approved approximately 200 orphan drugs; another 1000 drugs have been designated for orphan drug research. I believe that most of this work would never have been done without Abbey Meyers and the organization that she established in 1983, the National Organization of Rare Disorders (NORD).

Abbey Meyers's success is due to her enormous skills in assisting patients in navigating the political world in Washington and in mastering complex scientific issues. Abbey Meyers and NORD support more than 2,000 patient organizations. She is a frequent witness on Capitol Hill on health policy issues. And she has had a significant influence on research into pharmaceuticals for rare disease.

Recently Abbey Meyers has announced that she will retire as President of NORD. It is hard to imagine resolving major public health issues without her input. While we wish Abbey a joyful retirement, we know with near certainty that she will never stop thinking about what policies will best benefit patients in this country, and we will continue to benefit from her commitment and knowledge.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this important bill to establish a National Cancer Research Month.

Sadly, cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. This disease will claim the lives of almost 560,000 Americans and over 6,500 Iowans this year. However, the more we know about this deadly disease the more we can do to eradicate it. Research is the key to saving lives.

I'm proud to represent the University of Iowa and commend them on their commitment to cutting edge research. The University just broke ground for the Iowa Institute for Biomedical Diversity, and the College of Public Health. Both facilities will work to research, develop and advance treatments for a wide array of human diseases, including cancer.

We must encourage and support cutting edge cancer research so that lives are no longer lost to this disease. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 865—H. Res. 257, which supports the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, I was with my constituents in Nevada's Second District. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LATE RICHARD D. GIDRON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a pioneering entrepreneur, a nat-

ural-born salesman, a trailblazer in the African-American and business communities, and a dear friend, the late Richard Daniel Gidron. Dick Gidron overcame the many obstacles to success that faced Black entrepreneurs of his generation to become a successful car dealer who opened doors of opportunity for the current generation of successful Black businessmen. A man of firsts, Mr. Gidron rose from car jockey at a Cadillac dealership in his native Chicago to become the company's first Black salesman, and later, the second African-American Cadillac dealer nationwide and the first in New York. In honor of that stellar legacy, I want to recognize his achievements on the floor of the House so that his contributions can be appreciated. I introduce for the information of my colleagues his New York Times obituary, "Richard D. Gidron Is Dead at 68; Ran an Empire of Car Dealerships," published October 15, 2007, and written by Robert D. McFadden.

Mr. Gidron was head of a dealership empire that spanned three companies—Cadillac, Oldsmobile, and Ford—and four regions—Bronx, Yonkers, Mt. Kisco, and Mahopac—that became quite a successful enterprise. He boasted impressive numbers, eclipsing \$45 million in annual sales by 1980 to become one of the Nation's top 10 Cadillac dealers.

The one-time president of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Bronx County Democratic Committee, Mr. Gidron maintained a slew of friends representing the fields of politics, sports, and entertainment. At a time when African Americans found themselves seldom represented in the upper echelons of the entrepreneurial world, Mr. Gidron successfully led a franchise that served as the very symbol of wealth, stardom, celebrity, and power. We should remember and praise him for the pathway he blazed for the successful Black entrepreneurs of today.

RICHARD D. GIDRON IS DEAD AT 68; RAN AN EMPIRE OF CAR DEALERSHIPS

Richard D. Gidron, a politically savvy Bronx businessman who became one of America's earliest and most successful black owners of a Cadillac dealership before falling on hard times and going to prison for a year for fraud and tax evasion, died Thursday at a New York hospital. He was 68 and lived in Scarsdale.

Mr. Gidron died at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, said his son, Richard Jr., who declined to disclose the cause of death.

For three decades, Dick Gidron, as he was known to a generation of car buyers as well as mayors, congressmen, star athletes and other celebrities, presided over an empire of Cadillac, Oldsmobile and Ford dealerships that began in the Bronx and moved into Yonkers, Mt. Kisco and Mahopac.

Starting as a teenage car jockey parking Caddies at a dealership in Chicago in 1957, Mr. Gidron, a born salesman, learned his trade when America's craze with Cadillacs inspired visions of stardom and celebrity—of Elvis Presley whizzing through Memphis in a gold Cadillac and of Sugar Ray Robinson cruising the streets of Harlem in a flamingo pink convertible.

In 1972, when General Motors wanted a minority owner for its Bronx Cadillac franchise, it selected Mr. Gidron, by then one of its top salesmen, over competitors who included Sammy Davis Jr. and Henry Aaron. He thus became New York's first African-American Cadillac dealer and the second in the nation.

By 1980, with annual sales of \$45 million, Mr. Gidron was among the top 10 Cadillac